

Winter 2015

## Pro Musica Newsletter, Winter 2015

Bowling Green State University. College of Musical Arts

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# The Pro Musican

## Winter 2015



### President's Message

Dear Friends and Donors,

*Is change desired?*

That question was posed at the August 3, 2006 Executive Committee meeting and again at the Fall Board meeting that same year. Change to expand/enrich student's educational experiences guides our work. Board members are passionate, generous and creative, so change has continued.

New strategies to secure members and raise funds were evidenced by the fourth annual Celebrity Server Night. Nineteen travelers shared their travel stories, some performed, while others served appetizers while all expressed their gratitude to donors who have made their educational experiences culturally richer.

Please, visit our Facebook page to learn the results of future board and student leadership elections, scholarship winners and award recipients. Plus, there will be photos of student travelers who have embraced the unique opportunity of comparing their skills and experiences with their peers throughout the world. They are part of our cultural future.

Members of the Executive Committee of Pro Musica join me in thanking each of you for making a difference in the lives of the astoundingly talented students who are the Bowling Green State University College of Musical Arts.



Gratefully,

Karol Spencer

### Promoting Musical Excellence

*Pro Musica supports the College of Musical Arts by inviting the participation of alumni, friends, parents and the Bowling Green community in a wide variety of musical events and by providing financial support for music students.*

**Visit our Facebook page, BGSU Pro Musica and become a friend today!**

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# Student Essays

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From left to right: Caleb Georges, Erin Napier, Yizhak Schotten and Abigail Choi

## Caleb Georges

Montecito Chamber Music Festival,  
Thousand Oaks, Calif.  
July 12–31, 2014

This past summer, I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Montecito Chamber Music Festival in Thousand Oaks, Calif. I learned as much during the three-week festival as I do normally in a year. The level of the students was extremely high and I enjoyed performing with them.

In the first week I was assigned chamber groups and a private instructor. I had the honor to study with Yizhak Schotten, professor of viola at the University of Michigan. I was also one of four viola students chosen to perform in a master class with Roberto Diaz, one of the world's finest violists and also president of the Curtis Institute of Music.

During the festival, I rehearsed daily with my two assigned chamber groups, Mozart's Oboe Quartet and Schubert's "Trout" Quintet. We received two chamber music coachings for each group and two private lessons each week. Every night we attended concerts by students and faculty. My quintet had the opportunity to perform in a recital and a master class with the FUGU trio.

I wished that the festival had lasted longer as my weeks there were the highlight of my summer. I could not have attended without the generosity of Pro Musica.

## Josh Simmons

2014 International Computer Music  
Conference, Athens, Greece  
September 14–20, 2014

The 2014 International Computer Music Conference in Athens, Greece, was an

extremely rewarding experience. The journey there was a challenge, but my colleagues, Thomas Beverly and Andrew Selle, and I were elated and running on adrenaline when we exited the airport into the streets of Athens. We had a free afternoon upon arrival, so we could become oriented. We found the metro and walking routes to the conference sites. A brief opening ceremony and concert started the activities on Sunday evening.

Monday morning included a bevy of concerts and paper sessions, oftentimes with two events happening concurrently. This schedule continued through the conclusion of the conference on Friday. I saw great performances of works by Dr. Elaine Lillios, Thomas Beverly and Andrew Selle. A staggering amount of new technology was used in the concerts. I was most intrigued by a custom peripheral a composer had built to sense height, pitch and yaw of hands above the board, similar to the existing Leap Motion technology, but more dynamically responsive.

Friday evening's concert consisted of video works, collaborations between video artists and composers in a wide variety of styles. My piece was featured on Friday's video concert as well. This event was originally scheduled in one of the smaller halls in the Onassis Center, but two days before the performance the venue was changed to a movie theater. I have never had a screening in a real movie theater. I converted my video to a different format the day before the concert, so it could be loaded onto the digital movie theater projector. The thrill

of seeing my piece on the big screen was indescribable. My work was well received and will have two more performances later in the year.

The other major component of the conference was paper sessions. I attended lectures by giants in the field including Jon Chowning, inventor of FM synthesis, and Jean-Claude Risset, a composer known for his work in the field of electronic music and pioneering the creation of many auditory illusions.

The conference was an incredible learning experience and I could not have traveled to attend it without your generous support.



From left to right: Evangeline Canfield, Rachel Bletstein and Elizabeth Canfield

## Rachel Bletstein

Cincinnati Music and Wellness Coalition  
Columbus, Ohio  
September 19, 2014

With financial help from Pro Musica, I attended the Cincinnati Music and Wellness Coalition in Cincinnati also referred to as the music and medicine conference. The conference was divided into sessions that dealt with music, medicine, wellness and how they interact. Professional musicians and physicians spoke and shared their experiences. They expressed how music has the power to heal.

**BE SURE TO VISIT AND LIKE US ON  
FACEBOOK AT BGSU PRO MUSICA**



From left to right: Dr. Elaine Lillios, Andrew Selle, Josh Simmons and Thomas Beverly



# Other News



Dr. Ramona Cormier      Dr. Marjorie Conrad

## In Memoriam

The Bowling Green community lost two very special friends this fall: **Dr. Ramona Cormier** and **Dr. Marjorie Conrad**. Music alumni will recognize Dr. Conrad, a prominent Wood County physician, from the annual Dr. Marjorie Conrad Art Song Competition in the College of Musical Arts. Dr. Cormier, a retired associate provost at BGSU, was a member of the philosophy department who also supported the students in the College of Musical Arts. These two individuals have had a profound effect on students in the College of Musical Arts.

Interestingly, they had many experiences and interests in common. Both women were involved with aviation. Dr. Cormier served in the Women's Air Corps during World War II and Dr. Conrad was a licensed pilot. They both shared a dedication to College of Musical Arts' students and believed in the power of endowments to generate annual support for scholarships and educational

travel support. They both found Pro Musica to be the institutional vehicle through which their aspirations could be realized.

Over the years, I have come to see both of these special people as practical optimists. They believed in a bright future for our talented students and they generously invested in optimum experiences that would insure that future.

While we miss Ramona and Marjorie greatly, their memories are embedded in the values and opportunities provided to our students by Pro Musica. Future music students will benefit from their vision and generosity in perpetuity, and their true legacy will be found in the lives of our music alumni and all who are in turn inspired by their work.

— Richard Kennell, dean emeritus

## Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition

The College of Musical Arts is pleased to announce the eighth annual **Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition** will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 21–22, 2015 in Bryan Recital Hall. Finals are on Sunday at 3 p.m.

The competition is co-chaired by Dr. Conor Nelson and Dr. Susan Nelson. Pro Musica will provide a reception in the Kennedy Green Room following the finals. PM members are invited to attend any part of the competition. Winning ensembles will perform at the following special concerts:

- **Tuesday, March 31:** Bowling Green at the Manor House Series, Manor House, Wildwood Preserve Metropark, Toledo, 7:30 p.m.

- **Sunday, April 12:** Toledo Museum of Art, 3 p.m.

In honor of Douglas Wayland's love of chamber music and his contribution to BGSU, the College of Musical Arts has dedicated the competition in his name. This competition was founded by Doug and Carolyn and Robert Lineback to enable students the opportunities to create and perform in chamber music groups. Each year, the competition costs approximately \$5,000. An endowment has been established by a generous anonymous donor, but in order for the endowment to pay the full cost we need additional support. If interested in contributing to this cause, please contact Tony Wagener at (419) 372-4261 or [atwagen@bgsu.edu](mailto:atwagen@bgsu.edu).

## Estate Gifts to Pro Musica

Pro Musica is an organization dedicated to supporting travel grants/awards to help students experience musical growth opportunities outside of the traditional classroom.

Every cent of your membership fee goes to support student grants. Please consider learning more about making an estate gift to Pro Musica

Contact Tony Wagener, director of development, College of Musical Arts, at 419-372-4261 for a confidential conversation about how easy it is to continue your support of future students through Pro Musica.

# Student Essays

(Bletstein cont.) The session, "The Healing Power of Music Therapy," presented by Dr. Richard Fratianne, addressed how burn victims are helped by music. We learned how the brain functions with respect to emotions, memory, pleasure and how the body responds to music. The doctor stated, "Music has the

capacity to activate and integrate all three levels of brain response." He also told us that "Music therapy diverts patients' attention away from pain." Tests were performed on patients and the results showed that stress hormones were lowered as a result of their work with music therapists. Pain and anxiety levels were reduced. Music promotes healing.

Another session was "Evidence-based Music Making Wellness." Clavinovas were used with patients suffering from addiction. Familiar songs are played for the patients to trigger a response or realization. The instruments are also used with the elderly suffering from dementia. Health issues treated with music therapy can yield profound results.

# Where will YOU go next with Pro Musica?





**Dr. DuWayne and Dorothy '62, '69 Hansen**

#### Musical Background

DuWayne began taking piano lessons when he was 10. For whatever reason, he fell in love with classical music from the word go. When he had a paper route, he would spend the little money he made on classical recordings (78 rpm); however, he had to sneak them into the house because his mother thought his interest in such music would soon pass.

Dottie began piano lessons when she was seven. She was attracted to the organ in high school and played for Sunday night services at her church. Her grandma always heard her play and gave her a monetary reward for every service she completed.

Dottie's father played trombone quite well. Although he majored in engineering, he began the marching band at Lehigh University when he was still a student. Throughout his lifetime, he played in several dance bands, a number of community orchestras and often in church with his daughter. DuWayne's mother's side of the family was involved with music in many ways. His great-grandfather sang and played several instruments. His grandfather was a first-rate fiddler, playing five string instruments, and his uncle owned a music store where DuWayne spent a great deal of time as he was growing up.

#### BGSU When We Were There

Dottie arrived at BGSU in 1958 when the Department of Music was beginning to flourish under the guidance of Dr. James Paul Kennedy. Kennedy almost single-handedly established the high performance standards for the music program. Dottie graduated in 1962 and immediately began teaching elementary general music in Riverview, Mich. By the time DuWayne arrived at Bowling Green in 1969, the College of Musical Arts was providing a rigorous undergraduate education degree and beginning to develop graduate programs

## Reflections from DuWayne & Dottie Hansen

in a variety of areas. In fact, DuWayne was hired to teach graduate courses and develop the graduate program. Needless to say, both Dottie and DuWayne have taken great satisfaction in the enormous growth of the CMA, in numbers and in quality!

#### Favorite Memories of BGSU

From the very beginning, Dottie fell in love with the faculty and students in the Department of Music. In those days, music was a department in the College of Education. Dottie says, "They were like a family," and, in the same vein, she has kept in touch with a number of musical alumni and former music faculty. She especially admired William Alexander and his wife who were most kind. Mrs. Alexander became an SAI Patroness and often invited the chapter to her house for a meeting or ceremony. Dottie liked Kennedy's approach to teaching music theory.

DuWayne fell in love with Dottie and fondly remembers the many hours they spent involved in musical activities at BGSU. The environment at BGSU influenced their daughter, Beth, as she went on to major in music education and performance at Ithaca College and currently teaches music (strings) in Fairport, N.Y.

DuWayne particularly admires faculty members who did so much to build the reputation of the school, especially emeritus faculty members Mark Kelly, Virginia Marks and Dr. Ivan Trusler; former Associate Dean Jon Piersol, and BGSU Distinguished Artist Professors Drs. John Sampen and Marilyn Shrude—to name a few of the outstanding individuals on the faculty while he was there.

#### Mentors

When DuWayne moved to Ohio in 1969, Dr. E. Richard (Dick) Shoup became a close friend and mentor. Shoup was supervisor of music at the Ohio State Department of Education, and eventually asked DuWayne to write and edit the first statewide music curriculum guide for Ohio teachers. Copies of several editions can still be purchased on eBay and other websites.

#### Hansen Series

The Hansen Musical Arts Series was initiated to help students and faculty profit from the wisdom and experience of those who have excelled in the music profession. Exposing people of significance can make and leave a lasting impression—sometimes remaining in the memory for a lifetime.

The idea for the series was formulated with former Dean Richard Kennell. Kennell always went the extra mile in making each of the residencies a unique success. Faculty members help select the visiting musicians through a faculty committee appointed by the Dean of the College and currently headed by Dr. Kenneth Thompson. Fortunately, Dean Showell has been most supportive in carrying on the series tradition, now in its 13th year.

Dottie and DuWayne are united in expressing that every session offered over these 13 years have been highlights of their lives!

#### Hansen Fellowship Program:

Our latest funding initiative evolved from discussions with Dean Showell; Dr. William Mathis, chair of Music Performance Studies, and other music faculty members. The issue was "What can be done to attract the finest students to BGSU?" This question is relevant because the College of Musical Arts currently enrolls such students and how might we help the College enroll more of these students.

The Music Fellowship Program is based on the notion that the best students could significantly benefit from a series of professional experiences that would parallel their undergraduate studies. Dottie and DuWayne hope these additional experiences, which will be covered by the Fellowship, will not only be attractive to exceptional students, but help them graduate "one step ahead" of students from other schools of music.

#### Closing Thoughts

Dottie and DuWayne have been richly blessed because of their lifelong association with BGSU. The family of students and faculty of the College of Musical Arts and the University have welcomed us and made us feel like BGSU is our home away from home. We have reaped far more from our support of the University than we ever could have imagined when we began. Indeed, for us, BGSU is the "gift that keeps giving!"

## 4th Annual Celebrity Server Night

Once again, our Celebrity Server Night was a huge success! We raised over \$16,000 for the students at the CMA!



### Executive Committee Members

Karol Spencer, President  
Myra Merritt, Vice President  
Vincent Corrigan, Secretary  
Ellen Dalton, Treasurer  
Jeffrey Showell, Dean

Jane Milbrodt, Kathleen Moss and  
Conor Nelson, Members-at-Large

Penny Thompson Kruse, Editor,  
Pro Musican  
Tina Bunce, Publicity

Tony Wagener, Director of  
Development, Foundation Office